



Navigate the future.

Bio | Rob Sparks

Rob Sparks is a lifelong area resident of Anderson, Indiana. Rob worked for Pay Less Supermarket for 20 years, leaving his last assignment as an Assistant Store Manager in 1996. Rob sought to use his small business background in the rental real-estate and rehab field. Focusing on buildings in Anderson's Historic District, Rob has restored several structures with historic significance in the area.

In 2004, Rob was asked to serve as Chairman of the Board of Works and Deputy Mayor for the City of Anderson.

During the next four years his multi-tasking skill sets were utilized daily, covering all facets of City government outside of public safety. With budgets near \$100 million annually, four labor unions, all City-owned utilities, and demanding infrastructure needs, Rob helped coordinate a team that made bold steps toward accomplishing the Mayor's development agenda.

Rob assisted CED on numerous projects during his 4 years with the Smith administration, including the Nestlé project. In July of 2007 the CED Board of Directors requested that Rob serve as Interim Director and four months later they offered him the job as Executive Director, which he accepted. Over the last 7 years Madison County has seen over 4000 Jobs added or retained, 4 Million Square Feet of building leased or built, and over a Billion Dollars invested.

During his tenure at CED, Rob has had the opportunity to travel extensively and network with existing company headquarter operations, as well as expand new international business contacts on behalf of the community. He has visited China, Japan, Korea, Canada, Germany, UK, Italy, and India.

Rob and his wife of 30 years, Shelly, have two adult children who are both graduates of Anderson University and reside in Anderson. Rob is an avid cyclist and beginner triathlete and has completed two events for the Leukemia Society raising \$12,000 toward research. A classic car enthusiast, Rob is helping his son on a 1970 Nova project car. Rob is a graduate of Madison Heights and has attended Ivy Tech. He is a supporter of early childhood development and is involved in several local and regional boards, including The Impact Center, Madison County Educational Committee, and United Ways Financial Stability Partner Group.